

Mansfield Conservation Commission
Minutes of the September 17, 2003 Meeting
Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Building

Present: Denise Burchsted, Robert Dahn (chairman), Quentin Kessel, and Lanse Minkler.

Absent: Jennifer Kaufman, John Silander, Robert Thorson, and Frank Trainor..

Town Staff: Grant Meitzler

Guests: Michael Taylor, Marc Lavitt and Tom Boyle (representatives of Reja Acquisitions), Norm and Pam Livingston, and Cynthia van Zelm.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM.
2. The minutes of the August 20, 2003 were tabled until the next meeting.
3. Dahn proposed and it was agreed to change the order of the agenda in order to accommodate the guests.
4. Van Zelm, Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, Inc., made a presentation in which she updated the CC on the status of the project and answered questions.
5. IWA Referrals.
 - a) W1229 - Taylor – Hanks Hill Road. Map date 8/27/03. This application is for a three-lot subdivision with a single driveway on an 18.3 acre parcel. Taylor made a presentation and the application was discussed in detail with Meitzler. Kessel moved and Minkler seconded that there should be no significant negative impact on the wetlands as long as the sedimentation and erosion controls shown on the map are in place and removed after the site has stabilized. The motion passed 3-0 with Dahn recusing himself.
 - b) W1231 - Reja Acquisitions Corp – Coventry Road. Map date 2/03. This application is for a six-lot subdivision utilizing 78 acres of a 165 acre lot. Reja Acquisitions made a presentation and this was followed by comments from Norm and Pam Livingston who own 27.6 acres on Coventry Road adjacent to the proposed development. The Livingstons expressed concern about preservation of habitat for wildlife and the quality of water entering their pond. The CC urges the IWA and the PZC to listen carefully to the concerns expressed by the Livingstons and other adjacent landowners as this development may have a significant impact on Coventry Road. The CC felt that the Landscape Architect's report was good, approves in concept, their use of semi-clustering of the housing and discussed the adequacy of the open space dedication. The CC is eager to see the white cedar swamp preserved as well as the other land adjacent to the existing agricultural open space. It is appreciated that much of this may be dedicated prior to the development of the remaining 87 acres. However,

the wetlands report was not available to the CC and Burchsted felt unable to vote without this information at this time. For this reason the CC declined to take formal vote. It appears there will be time to consider this application further at the October meeting.

c) W1226 - Ryan - Woodland Road. The CC declined to comment or take action on this application for work that has already taken place.

d) W1227 - Schwartz - Pleasant Valley Road. Map date 8/22/03. This application is to build an addition to a single-family house. Kessel moved and Minkler seconded that there should be no significant negative impact if appropriate sedimentation and erosion controls are in place during the construction and removed after the site is stabilized. The term "appropriate" is used because the CC feels the sedimentation and erosion controls shown on the map are inadequate or nonexistent. The motion passed unanimously.

e) W1230 - Raynor - Moulton Road. Map date 8/27/03. This application is to build a single family dwelling on an 8 acre lot (1 lot subdivision). Kessel recused himself from the discussion. Dahn moved and Minkler seconded that there should be no significant negative impact if the sedimentation and erosion controls shown on the map as well as near the septic area (where the sedimentation and erosion seem not to be indicated on the map) are in place during the construction and removed after the site is stabilized. The motion passed unanimously (with 1 recusal).

6. Under new business, the Rapid Biotic Assessment in the Naubesatuck Watershed scheduled for 9/27/03 was discussed and Thorson's message that he wants to keep the stone wall issue on the agenda was noted. Thorson's note also asked if DEP's Corine Fitting had responded to the CC's request for references to the DEP excluding watersheds drained by perennial streams from aquifer direct recharge areas. Kessel agreed to contact DEP's Commissioner Arthur Rocque to follow up on this issue.

7. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Quentin Kessel
Secretary